



Public Information Office
210 S. McDonald St. Suite 540
McKinney, TX 75069

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Leigh Hornsby, Public Information Officer
214-686-0152
lhornsby@co.collin.tx.us

EMBARGO UNTIL 8 a.m., CENTRAL TIME, 2/18/03

Collin County Prepared for Smallpox Vaccinations

(McKinney, TX) - Now that the first Texan has received a smallpox vaccination, Collin County's Homeland Security and Health department will soon begin a localized vaccination plan.

With more than 500 hours of organizational and educational work already conducted, Collin County is equipped and prepared to carryout the task of vaccinating those public health response team members, who have volunteered in this pre-event plan.

During this phase of the vaccination plan, members of the county's smallpox response team and health department personnel will receive smallpox vaccinations. Only those who would investigate, control, diagnose or treat a possible or actual smallpox outbreak will be vaccinated. The purpose of this phase is to protect public health workers and health department personnel who would respond to a possible or actual smallpox outbreak.

The vaccination plan is carefully controlled, coordinated and monitored so that those involved are fully trained and informed.

###